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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY CAMBODIA/SOUTH VIETNAM

REPORT NO.

SUBJECT VIEWS OF VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS
CONCERNING THE MILITARY COUP OF 1
NOVEMBER AGAINST THE NGO DINH DIEM REGIME

DATE DISTR. 4 NOVEMBER 1963

PRECEDENCE

DATE OF
INFO.

REFERENCES

IN

PLACE &
DATE ACQ.
APPRAISAL

FIELD REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION. SOURCE GRADINGS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE

1. SUMMARY. VIETNAMESE COMMUNISTS /VC/ REGARDED THE MILITARY COUP D'ETAT OF 1 NOVEMBER 1963 AGAINST THE DIEM REGIME AS AN AMERICAN MOVE TO GET RID OF THE NGO DINH FAMILY. THE VC WERE SURPRISED BY THE RAPIDITY OF THE COUP. HAD IT LASTED LONGER THEY WOULD HAVE TAKEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO STEP UP ATTACKS, AS THE VC RADIO CALLED UPON THEM TO DO IN BROADCASTS ON THE NIGHT OF 1 NOVEMBER. VC PROPAGANDA LINE IS THAT THE COUP WAS ONLY A CHANGE OF AMERICAN PUPPET REGIMES. COMMENT. THE VC ARE BELIEVED TO BE UNHAPPY

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ABOUT THE COUP AND THE CHANGE OF REGIME, SINCE THE UNPOPULARITY OF THE DIEM REGIME WAS ONE OF THEIR GREATEST PROPAGANDA ASSETS. /

2. ON THE EVENING [REDACTED] NOVEMBER, A VC CELL [REDACTED] HELD A MEETING PRESIDED OVER BY THE CELL LEADER. THE CELL MEMBERS WERE TOLD THAT THE COUP OF 1 NOVEMBER WAS AN AMERICAN INSTIGATED ACTION AND THAT THE ARMY OF VIETNAM /ARVN/ OFFICERS WHO STAGED IT WERE ONLY "LACKEYS" OF THE AMERICANS. THE CELL LEADER SAID THAT THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT WOULD BE TORN APART BY A STRUGGLE FOR SUPREME POWER AMONG ITS MEMBERS. HE SAID THAT THE NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION /NFL/ TOO, HAD LONG FORSEEN THIS COUP, SINCE THEY KNEW THAT THE AMERICANS WISHED TO "CHANGE HORSES." [REDACTED] COMMENT. BROADCASTS OF THE VC RADIO IN SOUTH VIETNAM /SVN/ ON THE NIGHT 1 NOVEMBER CALLED ON THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE, THE FIGHTERS OF THE NFL AND ELEMENTS WITHIN THE ARVN TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE COUP AND DESTROY STRATEGIC HAMLETS AND GUARD TOWERS, AND TO RISE UP UNDER THE BANNER OF THE NFL. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF THE RAPIDITY WITH WHICH THE COUP WAS CARRIED OUT, THIS LINE OF ACTION PROVED IMPOSSIBLE. /

3. THE CELL LEADER SAID FURTHER THAT THE COURSE OF THE VC WAS CLEAR. I.E. TO CONTINUE THE BATTLE, SO LONG AS THE AMERICANS REMAINED ON VIETNAMESE SOIL, UNTIL THE FINAL VICTORY WAS WON. HE SAID THAT ORDERS HAD BEEN GIVEN TO THE VC FORCES TO KILL OR CAPTURE AS MANY AMERICANS AS POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO SHOW THE AMERICANS

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THE CONSEQUENCES OF CONTIVING TO "FORCE THIS FILTHY WAR" UPON THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. HE SAID THAT THE VC MUST REDOUBLE THEIR EFFORTS TO CAUSE THE AMERICANS HEAVY LOSSES IN MEN AND MATERIAL.

4. [REDACTED] DISSEM STATE ARMY MAAG USAID CINCPAC PACFLT ARPAC PACAF

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